

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to methods for remediating a material contaminated with a halogenated aromatic compound. Cultures containing *Dehalococcoides ethenogenes* strain 195 are disclosed which decontaminate halogenated aromatic compounds by removing at least one halogen group from the aromatic compound. The addition of a simple halogenated compound to a contaminated material is also provided for stimulating or supporting the growth of a dehalogenating organism thereby enhancing the bioremediation process of a contaminated material.